Connect Create Collaborate

Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>

FYI the 2018 story on Crimebusters

1 message

Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org> Thu, Aug 15, 2019 at 3:51 PM
To: Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>, Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>

FYI I was able to find it. Text attached. I think LA Magazine lifted the Pitcher quotes from here.

Thanks,
Lisa

Lisa Hansen, Chief of Staff
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Council, Third District
200 N. Spring St., Room 415, Los Angeles, CA 90012

213.473.7003 Office | 213.473.7567 Fax | blumenfield.lacity.org

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BOB BLUMENFIELD
COUNCILMEMBER

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Daily news Crimebusters story 2018.docx
18K

Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>

Valley news group
2 messages

Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>
To: c03-allstaff <c03-allstaff@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 15, 2019 at 6:18 PM

Sprint LTE 6:13 PM

valleynewsgroup.com

will we allow any employee or volunteer to encourage criminal or violent behavior."

Rubenstein said however, that after these articles appeared this week, officers received a mandate to no longer participate in either Crimebusters or Homeless Transients sites. "No one has come to the department and made a formal complaint." he said. "However the accusations alone from these articles are enough to constitute a complaint. They are not going to be participating on the site now that this has come to light." "We are encouraging everyone to use official department social media sites for pertinent crime information and communications with senior leads."

Rygh was exempt from the investigation, Rubenstein said, as he is retired and now a private citizen.

According to one member of the Facebook group who

wished to remain anonymous, the Senior Lead Officers are being unfairly targeted. "They actually have helped get homeless into rehab and off the streets."

But another commented, asking "How can the police be involved with a group where some members advocate poisoning the homeless or 'gassing them with my car.'?"

Peskin-White had volunteered a statement to *Valley News Group* on Wednesday, but at presstime

https://valleynewsgroup.com/exposes-on-crimebusters-lead-to-investigation-of-lapd-slos/
--

Jenny M. Portillo,
Senior Field Deputy
Representative for Canoga Park
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Council, Third District
19040 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335
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Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org> Thu, Aug 15, 2019 at 6:52 PM
To: Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>
Cc: Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>

Thanks. This is interesting to watch unfold and come to light.

Lisa Hansen
Chief of Staff
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

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On Aug 15, 2019, at 6:18 PM, Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org> wrote:

<IMG_0036.jpg>

[Quoted text hidden]

Connect Create Collaborate

Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>

FACEBOOK

8 messages

Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 27, 2018 at 12:52 PM
To: Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, Joseph Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, James Conlon <james.conlon@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

I just noticed i was kicked out

Jenny M. Portillo,
Senior Field Deputy
Representative for Canoga Park
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Council, Third District
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Screenshot (6).png
764K

Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 27, 2018 at 1:03 PM
To: Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>
Cc: Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, James Conlon <james.conlon@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

The irony being that we haven't reported anything so whatever trouble she has found herself in is from something completely different.

Jake Flynn, Communications Director
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Council, Third District
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213.473.7003 Office | 213.473.7567 Fax | blumenfield.lacity.org

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[Quoted text hidden]

<Screenshot (6).png>

Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 27, 2018 at 1:04 PM
To: Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>
Cc: Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, James Conlon <james.conlon@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

Exactly. But she is stirring the pot and it making it seem like we are censoring people.

Jenny M. Portillo,
Senior Field Deputy
Representative for Canoga Park
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Council, Third District
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[Quoted text hidden]

James Conlon <james.conlon@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 27, 2018 at 1:21 PM
To: Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>
Cc: Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

Very upsetting...
[Quoted text hidden]
--
James Conlon, Communications Deputy
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Council, Third District
200 N. Spring St., Room 415, Los Angeles, CA 90012

213.473.5818 Office | 213.473.7567 Fax | blumenfield.lacity.org
[Quoted text hidden]

Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 27, 2018 at 1:52 PM
To: James Conlon <james.conlon@lacity.org>
Cc: Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>, Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

Interesting. Is Bob still a member?

I don't know what her issue is but taking Jenny off is suspicious. If she's blocking us and telling people not to mention Bob what did they say that we missed? I wonder if she's getting the SLOs back on or not.

Not worth spending a lot of time on. We have much more important work to do with regard to the homeless including getting ready for the count in a month.

Thanks

Lisa Hansen
Chief of Staff
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

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[Quoted text hidden]

Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 27, 2018 at 1:55 PM
To: Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>
Cc: James Conlon <james.conlon@lacity.org>, Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

I agree with you. I was alerted by one of my friends on facebook

Jenny M. Portillo,
Senior Field Deputy
Representative for Canoga Park
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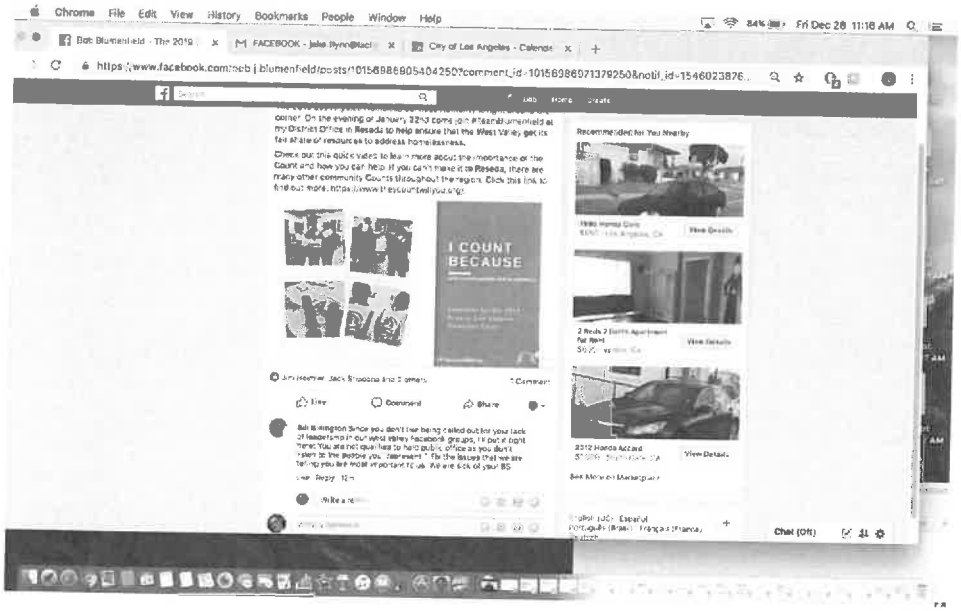
[Quoted text hidden]

Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org> Fri, Dec 28, 2018 at 11:21 AM
To: Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>
Cc: Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, James Conlon <james.conlon@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

So just posted LAHSA video and figured we'd some of this based on Fern's note. It would be great to have someone from the community say something about how we aren't the ones policing them and they can say whatever they want.



Jake Flynn, Communications Director
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Council, Third District
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[Quoted text hidden]

Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org> Fri, Dec 28, 2018 at 11:31 AM
To: Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>
Cc: Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, James Conlon <james.conlon@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

I can reach out to fern
and ask her whats up.

Jenny M. Portillo,
Senior Field Deputy
Representative for Canoga Park
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
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[Quoted text hidden]

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Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>

Suspect Arrested for Pushing Man Under a Truck

3 messages

Cecilia Castillo <cecilia.castillo@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 6, 2018 at 8:32 AM
To: Lisa Hansen <Lisa.Hansen@lacity.org>, Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Jeff Jacobberger <jeff.jacobberger@lacity.org>, John Popoch <john.popoch@lacity.org>, Jenny Portillo <Jenny.M.Portillo@lacity.org>

This is a horrific story and a fear that people have walking around individuals that seem mentally unstable. Story does not say whether the suspect was homeless, but it seems like the type of story Fern would pick up.

https://www.google.com/amp/s/abc7.com/amp/suspect-arrested-for-pushing-man-under-truck-in-downtown-la/4841569/

Sent from my iPhone

John Popoch <john.popoch@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 6, 2018 at 8:54 AM
To: Cecilia Castillo <cecilia.castillo@lacity.org>
Cc: Lisa Hansen <Lisa.Hansen@lacity.org>, Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Jeff Jacobberger <jeff.jacobberger@lacity.org>, Jenny Portillo <Jenny.M.Portillo@lacity.org>

I saw the video on the news last night. I almost puked. They kept showing it over and over but I looked away after the first time.
TV news said he was known homeless guy in the area. Of course I had probably the same thoughts you did when I heard that: Why haven't we done anything to get him off the street before something like this happened?

John Popoch
Deputy Chief of Staff
LA City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
[Quoted text hidden]

Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 6, 2018 at 8:56 AM
To: John Popoch <john.popoch@lacity.org>
Cc: Cecilia Castillo <cecilia.castillo@lacity.org>, Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Jeff Jacobberger <jeff.jacobberger@lacity.org>, Lisa Hansen <Lisa.Hansen@lacity.org>

My thought exactly . I'll check Facebook later today.
[Quoted text hidden]
--

Jenny M. Portillo,
Senior Field Deputy
Representative for Canoga Park
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
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Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>

fyi West San Fernando Valley Residents Take to Facebook To Stalk, Harass and Terrorize the Homeless with Help From Current And Former LAPD Officers.

1 message

Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org> Tue, Aug 13, 2019 at 1:16 PM
To: c03-allstaff <c03-allstaff@lacity.org>, Bob Blumenfield <bob.blumenfield@lacity.org>

FYI only a blog post with familiar names.

https://medium.com/@bushidosquirrel/ab2647eb1ffb

West San Fernando Valley Residents Take to Facebook To Stalk, Harass and Terrorize the Homeless with Help From Current And Former LAPD Officers.

Bushido Squirrel

Sources describe them as "hate groups masquerading as a neighborhood watch".

The homelessness crisis in Los Angeles has been well documented, here on Knock as well as in local and national media outlets. We've had visits from UN Rapporteurs on Poverty and Homelessness, the "housing crisis" has its own podcast, and Senator Bernie Sanders recently held a town-hall meeting in Northridge about the lack of affordable housing and the explosion of people living on the streets in California.

This issue has been a flash-point for community members of all political persuasions. Protests broke out when a homeless shelter was proposed for Koreatown, with residents arguing its presence would be a magnet for drug abusers and those suffering from mental illness.

Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Mike Bonin spent hours being vilified at a meeting filled with angry homeowners, outraged at the unsanitary conditions on city streets and the lack of action by our government.

The West San Fernando Vealley is no exception.

Encampments have taken root throughout the area as the city's homeless population grows by double digits. The area is also home to a number of people living in RVs and campers

Fed up with the city's response to their growing concerns about "quality of life" issues, homeowners in the area took to Facebook "neighborhood watch" groups to document their experiences, rage against elected officials, and plan their own actions to solve the "problem."

Two of these groups have been administered by current and former LAPD officers and volunteers. They regularly participate in the discussions and many have turned a blind eye to or even encouraged vigilante violence against people experiencing homelessness.

"Crimebusters of West Hills and Woodland Hills" as well as "Homeless Transient Encampments of our West Valley" are two of the most prominent and active groups, with approximately 10,944 and 3,331 members.

"Crimebusters of West Hills and Woodland Hills" began in 2016 as "Crime Stoppers of West Hills and Woodland Hills" but its founder, Valley Resident Fern Peskin White, quickly changed its name due to a conflict with the already established non-profit Crimestoppers.

Shortly after founding the group, Ms. White appointed LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Brent Rygh as an administrator via his official City Facebook page.

Around that same time Ms. White, began serving as an LAPD volunteer at Topanga Division, as well as on the area's Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB). Devonshire and West Valley divisions have also played a role by joining and at times participating in these groups. After SLO Rygh became an administrator, both he and Ms. White began appointing other local officers to roles, including SLO Sean Dinse, recently a candidate for the City Council District 12 special election.

Dinse and Rygh have a history together, as in the early 2000's they were appointed to their positions as Senior Lead Officers and paired as partners. Their role as SLOs was to follow crime trends and relay information to the public for their assigned areas. Rygh was tasked with West Hills and Dinse to Woodland Hills.

Dinse and Rygh regularly appeared together at neighborhood watch meetings and according to sources they violated LAPD ethics codes by providing community members with privileged background reports on persons living in a residential rehab wellness homes. Fueled by the illegally leaked information, residents made numerous complaints and the home was eventually forced to close. The people it served were left with one less option for stable housing and a chance to overcome addiction.

In 2017, Ms. White created a sub-group of the "Crimebusters of West Hills and Woodland Hills" called "Crimebusters Homeless Encampments" and quickly began adding members. Ostensibly geared towards documenting the growth of the homeless population in the area, its participants instead used it to target and shame the encampment residents.

SLO Sean Dinse regularly comments on the need for such documentation to remove nuisance activity from neighborhoods, and routinely cites homeless individuals for being an extra inch away from the curb or for sitting too close to the front door of a vacant business. Members post images of homeless residents who are not in violation of any municipal codes and within a day express their thanks to officers who "took care of them."

SLO Brent Rygh retired in the summer 2018 and resumed his role as an administrator of both groups. Other admins include Ms. White and retired LAPD Officer Lily Verner.

The behavior of these groups has not gone unnoticed by community members who are sympathetic to the suffering of the homeless and who advocate for compassionate solutions rather than harassment, criminalization and banishment.

From 2017–2018 several complaints were made directly to LAPD regarding the disturbing content of both groups and the involvement of law enforcement. After tepid response from LAPD, community members brought their concerns to national homeless advocacy organizations, including but not limited to the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LACAN), Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Together they sent a letter to the State Attorney General's office in an effort to end LAPD engagement with the groups. After learning of the letter, LAPD temporarily ordered officers to stop engaging with the groups until they attended social media training.

Following the training "Crimebusters Homeless Encampments" was renamed "Transient Homeless Encampments of Our West Valley". Some LAPD Officers resumed participation in the groups though a few did not return. The content of the groups demonstrates that the training was a complete failure.

As of June 2019, SLO Dinse actively seeks information as to the whereabouts of homeless individuals to coordinate their banishment, with some threads targeting and tracking the whereabouts of specific individuals, as many as 200 times per person.

Ms. White regularly works with property management companies and private security firms to remove encampment residents.

LAPD officer members of these groups are fully aware of civilian participants admitting to and even bragging about vigilante acts of harassment and violence, with some members being thanked by officers for disposing of homeless persons belongings. Administrators have posted comments such as "hose them down", "don't let them get comfortable", "I'll let my dog lose then wash the blood from his mouth", "Clorox them" and "lynch them." An encampment resident even reported that one person told them "I'm going to shoot you if you come back".

Three years have passed as dozens of complaints are neglected and ignored. Meanwhile, hundreds of homeless residents have been forced out by members of these groups. Those who remain face stalking, harassment, threats and acts of violence.

Lisa Hansen
Chief of Staff
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

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Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>

Dr. Drew Podcast 5.8.19

4 messages

Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org> Wed, May 8, 2019 at 4:55 PM
To: Joseph Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, Cecilia Castillo <cecilia.castillo@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

https://omny.fm/shows/dr-drew-midday-live-with-lauren-sivan/dr-drew-midday-live-5-08-19-12pm?t=21m10s&fbclid=IwAR1Tu5DQmLsRV_Q4rL17ebk6we841NB4xNIVy7xTp_bq9IL0T6hGh3PZaB8

Jenny M. Portillo,
Senior Field Deputy
Representative for Canoga Park
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
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Cecilia Castillo <cecilia.castillo@lacity.org> Fri, May 10, 2019 at 5:48 PM
To: Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>
Cc: Joseph Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

Wow! That was really annoying to listen to. Why does no one ever mention the courts/judges or Reagan cutting mental health funding?
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Cecilia Castillo, Legislative Deputy
Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Council, Third District
200 N. Spring St., Room 415, Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.473.7003 Office | 213.473.7567 Fax | blumenfield.lacity.org

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Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org> Fri, May 10, 2019 at 5:54 PM
To: Cecilia Castillo <cecilia.castillo@lacity.org>
Cc: Joseph Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

It makes me very angry. But people like Dinse I and fern are eating this up and posting it like if this is the only way. So misleading.
[Quoted text hidden]

--

[Quoted text hidden]

Lisa Hansen <lisa.hansen@lacity.org> Fri, May 10, 2019 at 6:08 PM
To: Jenny Portillo <jenny.m.portillo@lacity.org>
Cc: Cecilia Castillo <cecilia.castillo@lacity.org>, Joseph Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>, Michael Owens <michael.owens@lacity.org>

I haven't had a chance to listen yet. Will try to find time. Thanks

Lisa Hansen
Chief of Staff
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

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[Quoted text hidden]